

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

## **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1 to 8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A piezoceramic actuator comprising:  
a monolithic stack of thin piezoceramic films; ~~and~~  
internal electrodes arranged between the films, the internal electrodes being electrically interconnected on outer sides of the stack to form at least two electrode groups electrically separated from one another, the internal electrodes each having a rail-like extension in a region of the outer side of the stack; and  
at least one of metal knitted structures, metal meshes and metal foam electrically interconnecting exposed edges of each rail-like extension at a distance from the outer sides of the stack;

wherein each rail-like extension has one of electrochemically deposited nickel-alloy and nickel.

10. (Currently Amended) A piezoceramic ~~[[The]]~~ actuator ~~according to claim 9,~~  
comprising:

a monolithic stack of thin piezoceramic films; and  
internal electrodes arranged between the films, the internal electrodes being electrically interconnected on outer sides of the stack to form at least two electrode groups electrically separated from one another, the internal electrodes each having a rail-like extension in a region of the outer side of the stack;

wherein each rail-like extension has one of electrochemically deposited nickel-alloy and nickel; and

wherein each rail-like extension is made of nickel-alloy layer and a gold layer.

11. (Previously Presented) The piezoceramic actuator according to claim 9, wherein each rail-like extension has one of electrolytically deposited nickel-alloy and nickel.

12. (Currently Amended) A piezoceramic [[The]] actuator according to claim 11, comprising:

a monolithic stack of thin piezoceramic films; and  
internal electrodes arranged between the films, the internal electrodes being electrically interconnected on outer sides of the stack to form at least two electrode groups electrically separated from one another, the internal electrodes each having a rail-like extension in a region of the outer side of the stack;

wherein each rail-like extension has one of electrochemically deposited nickel-alloy and nickel; and

wherein each rail-like extension is made of nickel-alloy layer and an adjacent gold layer.

Claims 13 and 14. (Canceled).

15. (New) The piezoceramic actuator according to claim 9, wherein the at least one of metal knitted structures, metal meshes and metal foam is at least partially made from plastic.

16. (New) The piezoceramic actuator according to claim 15, wherein the at least one of metal knitted structures, metal meshes and metal foam is at least partially made from at least one of electrically conductive carbon or metal particles.

17. (New) A piezoceramic actuator comprising:  
a monolithic stack of thin piezoceramic films;  
internal electrodes arranged between the films, the internal electrodes electrically interconnected on outer sides of the stack to form at least two electrode groups electrically separated from one another, the internal electrodes each having a rail-like extension in a region of the outer side of the stack; and

electrically conductive films having a corrugated structure interconnecting exposed edges of each rail-like extension at a distance from the outer sides of the stack;

wherein each rail-like extension has one of electrochemically deposited nickel-alloy and nickel.

18. (New) The piezoceramic actuator of claim 17, wherein the electrically conductive films are at least partially made from plastic.

19. (New) The piezoceramic actuator of claim 18, wherein the electrically conductive films are at least partially made from at least one of electrically conductive carbon and metal particles.

20. (New) A piezoceramic actuator comprising:  
a monolithic stack of thin piezoceramic films; and  
internal electrodes arranged between the films, the internal electrodes being electrically interconnected on outer sides of the stack to form at least two electrode groups electrically separated from one another, the internal electrodes each having a rail-like extension in a region of the outer side of the stack;  
wherein each rail-like extension has an electrochemically deposited nickel-alloy.